

Message Text

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61

ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10

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R 282100Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5824

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 1484

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BL

SUBJ: PROPOSAL FOR MEETING OF HOST COUNTRY DRUG OFFICIALS

FOR S/NM - AMBASSADOR VANCE

1. FOLLOWING THE CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE WE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING A MEETING OF KEY LATIN AMERICAN OFFICIALS ENGAGED IN NARCOTICS - ESPECIALLY COCAINE-TRAFFIC CONTROL FROM THE REGION. SINCE THEN I HAVE CHECKED WITH AMBASSADORS HILL, POPPER AND DEAN AND I NOW SUBMIT TO YOU A FORMAL PROPOSAL FOR SUCH A MEETING TO BE FUNDED BY S/NM. THE PROPOSAL INCORPORATES THE VIEWS OF MY COLLEAGUES GIVING WEIGHT TO THE MAJORITY IN CASES OF DISAGREEMENT.

2. I PROPOSE A ONE-WEEK MEETING OF HOST COUNTRY DRUG OFFICIALS, I.E. NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICIALS OR POLICY OFFICIALS WHO AFFECT CONTROL AND COORDINATION. THREE OR FOUR OFFICIALS FROM EACH OF ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, CHILE AND PERU WOULD BE INVITED. U.S. PARTICIPATION WOULD BE LOW KEY. THE U.S. EMBASSY AND DEA AT THE SITE OF THE CONFERENCE WOULD ARRANGE, COORDINATE, AND REPORT

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THE MEETING. US PERSONNEL FROM WASHINGTON OR DEA REGIONAL

OFFICIALS WOULD NOT ATTEND.

3. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WOULD BE TO ARRANGE AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICIALS OF ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, CHILE AND PERU COULD ESTABLISH DIRECT COMMUNICATION AMONG THEMSELVES. SMALL GROUPS OF OFFICIALS FROM THESE FOUR COUNTRIES SHOULD BE ABLE TO FORGE THE PERSONAL BONDS NECESSARY TO BEGIN IMPROVING COORDINATION, BORDER CONTROL, EXCHANGE OF FUGITIVES AND NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE AND PERHAPS JOINT INVESTIGATIONS. A POLICE CHIEFS CONFERENCE MIGHT IMPROVE GENERAL LAW-ENFORCEMENT JOINT INVESTIGATIONS.

4. I BELIEVE BOLIVIA WOULD BE A GOOD SITE FOR THE CONFERENCE. A ONE WEEK CONFERENCE HERE SHOULD COST ABOUT \$6,500 INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION, PER DIEM REPRESENTATION AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS COSTS.

5. IF YOU APPROVE, I WILL RAISE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE GOB'S HOSTING THE CONFERENCE WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS HERE AND KEEP EMBASSIES BUENOS AIRES, LIMA AND SANTIAGO INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.
STEDMAN

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